

LOUISVILLE & NASHVILLE RAILROAD DEPOT
(The Old Train Station Food & Spirits)
Birmingham Industrial District
301 Greensboro Avenue
Tuscaloosa
Tuscaloosa County
Alabama

HABS No. AL-971

HABS
ALA
63-TUSLO,
25-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

ADDENDUM TO
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
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Location: 301 Greensboro Avenue, Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. Accessed from River Road and University Boulevard.

Ownership: John Curry (Curry Furniture Company)

Date of Construction: 1912

Project Information: This report is based on written documentation donated by the Birmingham Historical Society, reformatted to HABS/HAER guidelines.

Description: This Beaux Arts style depot built of yellow brick with limestone detailing, copper cornice and entrance awnings, and red tile roof now serves as a popular restaurant. Interior spaces are well preserved as is the bed of the abandoned L. & N. Railway which approaches the depot from the northeast, passing through the University of Alabama campus and residential areas.

Significance: This finely-detailed station marks the furthestmost extension of the L. & N.-Birmingham Mineral Railroad which opened Tuscaloosa County coal fields to economic development.

Condition: Adaptive reuse as popular restaurant and party spot.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

In 1884, the L. & N. Railroad formed the Birmingham Mineral Railroad to penetrate the coal and iron ore regions throughout the Birmingham District. Several years later, in 1888, the L. & N. extended a 27-mile branch line known as the Blue Creek Extension through the coal mining communities of Adger, Johns and Sumpter in Jefferson County to Yolande in Tuscaloosa County and on to Blockton Junction on the northern edge of Bibb County. This Blue Creek extension was the first major rail carrier to enter the mineral region of Tuscaloosa County. By 1890, the line extended to Brookwood and in 1912 construction of an 18-mile branch line linked these coal fields to Tuscaloosa (Klein 1972:248, 270). It was in this year that the current Tuscaloosa station was constructed. The recently abandoned L. & N. roadbed also remains.

Sources Consulted

National Register, 12/21/88

Klein, Maury, History of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, pp.
248, 270

Site Visits, fall 1991